



TREE

Three Rivers
Environmental
Educators

TREE weekly update February 6 2009

Time to vote on a new title for the newsletter. Some nominees: Branching Out, Cherry Pickings, TREE-mendous News

TREE meetings:

A planning meeting will be held February 12 at 12 noon at Los Portales restaurant in Warsaw. All are welcome to attend. Please let faye.andrashko@va.nacdn.net know if you are planning to attend so we will have enough tables.

Next meeting April 21, 11 am, at beautiful Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Montross VA. We will get a special tour of the mansion, and have a chance to walk the nature trails or go down to find shark's teeth on the fossil beach. Visit their website at www.stratfordhall.org

Local Events:

2009 Winter Plant ID Workshop

February 6th, 9am-3pm, VIMS

This first VAWP Workshop for the 2009 series will present an in-depth workshop on Winter Plant Identification in the Coastal Region. VAWP is teaming with the CBNERR in Virginia at VIMS to bring you this workshop. Each participant will be provided with a copy of Core & Ammons "Woody Plants in Winter". The workshop will include a classroom segment in the morning and a laboratory exercise in the afternoon.

Registration required - [click here](#)

Naked Tree Walk at Belle Isle State Park February 19

Belle Isle State Park will be the site for a Naked Tree Walk from 10:00 am to noon. Rich Steensma of the Virginia Department of Forestry will lead the walk. During the walk, participants will learn how to use branch patterns, bark texture, and other methods to identify trees. Winter provides a wonderful time to learn about trees as their true forms are more evident when they are "naked", or without their leaves. The program will be outside, so please dress for the weather. Meet at the Visitor Center.

February 19 Winter Warmers Series at Belle Isle State Park 1-3 pm

Retaining Water is Good for the Bay - Stormwater Management for Homeowners with Samuel Johnson

Having adequate amounts of rainfall is essential to growing good farm crops, having good home vegetable gardens and keeping a nice green lawn. Excess runoff can cause major erosion of soils and carry with it numbers of pollutants as it moves across the topography. Nature knows how to handle large quantities of rainfall in natural settings of forests, grasslands, wetlands, etc by slowing the water velocity and allowing it to infiltrate the soil. When the "natural hydrology" of a land surface with houses, roads, parking lots, shopping centers and other

surfaces are changed, the way that water moves across and in the soil is also changed. Impervious surface allows more water to accumulate in one spot and usually sends it moving faster. Rainfall also has the opportunity to pick up numerous water pollutants as it moves across harder surfaces such as oil, sediment, and pesticides. There are large and small scale options/practices to reduce rainfall runoff and attempt to get back to the natural hydrology that use to exist on any site. Reducing impervious surfaces, rain barrels, rain gardens, grass swales, and porous pavements are just a few examples. Reducing rainfall runoff can add to the body of work going into Chesapeake Bay restoration.

Sam Johnson is the Non-Point Source Specialist with the Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District. He holds a B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Tech and spent 31 years as the Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, Crop & Soil Science, in Westmoreland County. He currently serves with the Northern Neck Soil and Water District in Warsaw assisting with the Virginia BMP Cost Share Program and promoting conservation practices with Northern Neck localities.

Saving Groundwater in the Northern Neck

In a new course sponsored by Rappahannock Institute of Lifelong Learning (RILL), instructor Frank W. Fletcher, groundwater geologist, will discuss unregulated withdrawals from the artesian aquifers that threaten the groundwater supply of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. This timely course, "Saving Our Groundwater", will begin on Thursday, February 19 and continue Feb. 26 and March 5 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Northumberland Public Library, Heathsville. All interested citizens are invited to register and attend. To register for a RILL course, contact Sharon Drotleff, at the Rappahannock Community College/Educational Foundation, Inc. by phoning 804-333-6707 or 877-722-3679. Email: sdrotleff@rappahannock.edu RILL is a community service of RCC/EFI. A fee of \$35 accompanying registration assures a place in the class, as well as copies of materials.

Family Day 2009

February 21 9:00 am -1:00 pm

Festival Halle, Reedville, VA

Sponsored by Reedville Fishermen's Museum, Education Committee

The Chesapeake Bay: A Partnership of Humans and Nature Learn about the amazing spirit of the Chesapeake Bay. Plenty of fun facts and hands-on experiments. For kids of all ages. Food available throughout the day. Free admission, Groups welcome. For more information call 804-453-6529

Beekeeping Class

Classes will be held at the Northumberland Public Library in Heathsville on Monday nights from 7-9pm, beginning February 23 and lasting 8 weeks. Registration is \$100 per set of instructional materials; families and friends are welcome to share in order to keep their costs down. Call the Northumberland Extension Office: 804-580-5694 to register.

Project WILD Facilitator Training

February 25th-27th, Douthat State Park

If you are interested in becoming a certified facilitator for these environmental education curricula, please contact [Suzie Gilley](#) or [Carol Zokaite](#)s. Attendance at a prior workshop is required. Cost is \$35, which includes meals and lodging. Registration deadline is February 6. If you are going, let me know and we can carpool charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local—Food for Thought

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners will present their annual Gardening the Northern Neck seminar on Saturday, March 21, 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Church of the Nazarene in White Stone.

Morning and afternoon keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and a market place are planned. For more information and registration details call the Northumberland Extension office at (804) 580-5694 or e-mail kingdon@kaballero.com

Other Events:

Great Backyard Bird Count 2009

February 13-16, 2009

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

<http://www.birdcount.org>

Register Today for National Environmental Education Week April 12-18, 2009

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) promotes understanding and protection of the natural world by actively engaging K-12th grade students and educators of all subjects in an inspired week of environmental learning and service before Earth Day. This year's EE Week theme is Be Water Wise! Registered partners will have access to a wide variety of FREE environmental education resources, including a school water auditing tool and water quality monitoring resources. Partners receive certificates of participation for themselves and their students and a coupon for \$10 off a purchase at Acorn Naturalists, providers of science and nature resources for the trail and classroom. Additionally, those who register before January 30 will receive a free copy of *National Geographic Explorer* magazine. You can join a national network of educators dedicated to increasing environmental literacy, promote environmental learning, and gain national exposure for your school or organization by registering today at:

<http://www.EEWeek.org>

The Virginia Water Monitoring Council is proud to announce its **2009 Conference, Dynamic Tools for Watershed Protection**, which will be held on **Friday, March 20** in Henrico, Virginia. This conference is geared towards those who are interested in rain water harvesting, stormwater management, low impact development and other issues that affect Virginia's water quality. Cost to attend is just \$35. The VWMC is especially interested in having employees of local and county governments attend the conference, although it is open to every Virginian who is interested in preserving the quality of our water resources. More information about the conference will be posted soon on the VA Water Monitoring Council's web site:

www.vwrrc.vt.edu/vwmc/

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Great Web site for Native Plant information.

www.abnativeplants.com

Thank you Paula Boundy of the Northern Neck Native Plant Society for this information

Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator

The greenhouse gas equivalency calculator can help us understand just what reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 1 million metric tons means in everyday terms. This equivalency calculator may be useful in communicating your greenhouse gas reduction strategy, reduction targets, or other initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>

Universe Awareness for Young Children

This Web site is part of the 2009 International Year of Astronomy outreach program using "the beauty and scale of the universe to inspire very young children in underprivileged environments." Site offers a wide variety of educational materials such as online activities, games, animations, films, and teachers' materials. <http://www.unawe.org/>

Wetlands & Wonder Video: Reconnecting Children with Nearby Nature

This 14-minute video was produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency discusses the loss of wetlands and the effect that the loss of natural areas closest to us has on our connection to the natural world. The video includes streaming text for the hearing impaired.

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/education/wetlandsvideo/>

Right Whale Game

The Ocean Conservancy partnered has created a website devoted to right whales. The site offers an interactive right whale game where you can navigate the right whale safely through trash, lobster traps, and ships; right whale information; a coloring page, and more.

<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=OceanHall>

Build a Squid

Nothing but fun! Build your own squid, set it free, and then check out what yours and all the other squids have been up to. <http://squid.tepapa.govt.nz/build-a-squid/interactive>

Year of Science: 2009

To mark the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth, the 150th anniversary of his publication on the origin of species, and the 400th anniversary of the publication of Kepler's first two laws of planetary motion, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, and more than 150 other organizations, have declared 2009 the Year of Science. Each month, the Web site will focus around a scientific theme, and include related resources, activities, video clips, podcasts, student challenges, citizen science opportunities, and more.

<http://www.yearofscience2009.org/home/>

Grants:

21st Century Museum Professionals Grants

Deadline: March 16, 2009

This Institute of Museum and Library Services call for proposals is for museums, museum service organizations, and universities to submit grant proposals for projects designed to enhance the professional development of museum staff. Funding will support projects involving core management skills and/or projects that focus on collections care and management, interpretation, marketing and audience development, staff retention, visitor services,

governance, and other areas of museum operations. Applicants may request from \$15,000 to \$500,000 each for a grant extending up to three years.

<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/21centuryMus...>

Funds for Youth Literacy Programs in the U.S. and Puerto Rico

[WHO Foundation: Education/Literacy Grant Program](#)

The WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others supports grassroots nonprofit organizations serving the overlooked needs of women and children in the United States and Puerto Rico. The Foundation's Education/Literacy Grant Program provides support for free after-school programs and other education or literacy programs for low-income children of all ages. Organizations must have been incorporated for a minimum of three years prior to applying. Preference will be given to organizations with an operating budget of \$3 million or less, those not dependent upon government grants, and those with greater organizational program costs than personnel costs. The application deadline is March 17, 2009. Visit the Who Foundation website listed above to download a copy of the application form.

Request for Proposals for Community-Based Habitat Restoration Projects through the National Association of Counties/NOAA Restoration Center Partnership

The National Association of Counties (NACo), in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP), is pleased to announce the third year of funding for the Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative (CCRI). The initiative provides financial assistance on a competitive basis to innovative, high quality county-led or county-supported projects. *Projects must occur within a NACo member county, and be supported by the chief county elected official.

In 2009, the initiative will provide \$350,000 in grants to improve stream, river, estuarine, and other important marine habitats. Priority areas for CCRI are coastal restoration and the removal of fish passage barriers in coastal streams and rivers. Grants will range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 based upon need. The grant application must be submitted online at the website below.

Proposal Deadline

April 6, 2009

More Information

To access the full RFP and application instructions visit* National Association of Counties*: www.naco.org/ccri <<http://www.naco.org/ccri>>

Applicants may contact Carrie Clingan, NACo at 202-942-4246, cclingan@naco.org or ccri@naco.org <<mailto:ccri@naco.org>> and Melanie Gange, NOAA, Melanie.Gange@noaa.gov <<mailto:Melanie.Gange@noaa.gov>> with questions regarding potential proposals.

Jobs

Senior Manager, Public Lands Campaigns

Description:

We seek a qualified individual to develop and implement national strategies to advance National Wildlife Federation's public lands agenda. This position will serve as the organization's lead federal lobbyist on public lands issues, working to advance our priorities with members of Congress and the administration. The Sr. Manager of Public Lands must work closely with NWF's regional offices, affiliates and other disciplines across the organization including media and grassroots to ensure execution of comprehensive campaigns. Areas of focus will include protecting landscapes across the Rocky Mountain West from energy development, reforming mining practices and strengthening protections for the National Landscape Conservation System. This position will also work to ensure that federal land management agencies are accounting and planning for the impacts of climate change on habitats and wildlife.

Qualified individuals must have a Bachelor's degree; advanced degree in environmental policy, land management, law or other related topics is highly desirable. Additionally a minimum 8 years experience working for a non-profit, government agency, congressional office or comparable entity on land conservation or related topics is needed. Advocacy experience will be a plus.

Apply at www.nwf.org/careergateway and join us in mobilizing Americans to protect our country's wildlife.

Job Type: Full Time permanent

Salary Detail: Based on Qualifications

Deadline: 4-30-2009

Organization: [National Wildlife Federation](http://www.nwf.org)

Contact Person: Patrice Garnett

Phone:

E-Mail: garnettp@nwf.org

Mailing Address: 11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston, VA 20190